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SUBJECT: PORTUGAL SHARES CONCERNS ON NORTH KOREAN MISSILE LAUNCHES

REF: SECSTATE 111144

On July 6, Pol/Econ Officer outlined U.S. concerns about North Korea's July 4 and 5 missile launches and stressed that such activities called into question the North's willingness to achieve a diplomatic solution. MFA Director of Security and Disarmament Joao Corte-Real agreed completely with the White House statement and the U.S. position as outlined in reftel. He reported that Portugal supports the EU condemnation of the launches, and hopes that North Korea will exercise restraint and return to the Six-Party Talks in the near future. Corte-Real added that Portugal would like to see the UN Security Council issue a statement condemning the launches to match the U.S. and EU statements.

Hoffman